

CONFIDENTIAL.]

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REPORT (PART · II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 6th September 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1223. The following is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

Afghan rumours. It would appear that Amir Habibulla has already begun to find the Afghan throne anything but a bed of roses. Two of his nobles are said to be making preparations for a rising against him, and the fact that a considerable cargo of arms and ammunition has been despatched from Antwerp, for delivery to them at Port Said, would seem to point to foreign machinations, as it is inconceivable that the two disaffected chiefs could have managed to make arrangements with the Antwerp firm for the supply of these warlike materials without the agency of the emissaries of some Foreign Power, which shall be nameless. The British Government, as the friend of the Amir, is conducting a secret enquiry into the matter.

BENGALÉE,
29th Aug. 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1224. The usefulness of the Police Commission will, says the *Bengalee*, depend largely upon the character of the evidence that is produced before the Commissioners. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that the Provincial Committees should have before them not merely official but unofficial evidence.

This, however, has not been the case in Calicut, and the *Bengalee* draws the Viceroy's attention to the matter trusting that His Excellency will see that the present enquiry does not degenerate into a sham.

BENGALÉE,
29th Aug. 1902.

(d)—Education.

1225. In view of the disabilities under which the Indian labours, viz., that he is debarred from being a General or a Statesman, the Government should, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, allow him every facility for becoming a Philosopher—in which condition he would be harmless and happy. To deprive him of his liberty, and then the advantages of education would be unjust, impolitic and a most cruel arrangement. Therefore, says the journal, it is afraid that, if the Universities Commission's suggestions prove, when adopted, injurious, there will be tremendous uproar in the country which will force the Government to withdraw or modify the innovations.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th Aug. 1902

1226. The *Bengalee* comments on the extent of the feeling raised against the monopoly by the Government of legal education in this country, and against the proposal of centralization in the study of law. It quotes the protest recorded at the Town Hall meeting and the *Calcutta Weekly Notes* on the subject.

BENGALÉE,
29th Aug. 1902.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

1227. Sir Ashley Eden's Drainage Act of 1880, writes the *Hindoo Patriot*, did not provide any facilities for the landowners' share of the dues being as speedily and effectively realised by them from their tenants, as was provided for the realisation of the dues of the Government from the landowners themselves. This difficulty which was one of the principal grievances of landowners against the Drainage Act, has after 22 years been removed in the last meeting of the Bengal Council, and the landlord at last enjoys the benefit of the certificate procedure of the Public Demands Recovery Act.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th Aug. 1902.

The Drainage Act. The *Hindoo Patriot* congratulates Sir John Woodburn on the smooth and happy passage through the Council of a measure so largely affecting landowners and tenants.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BENGALIEE,
29th Aug. 1902.

1228. The *Bengalee* complains of the theft of fruit and vegetables from baskets while in transit by rail which is growing so common, and remarks that it is the system of work that is responsible for the commission of these thefts, and the sooner it is either mended or ended, the better.

(h)—*General.*

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th Aug. 1902.

1229. Referring to the action of the Commandant and Adjutant of the Cadet Battalion, which has given offence, in enrolling some native schoolboys as Volunteer cadets, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* thanks Major Cooper, for his intentions are very kind, and advises the Indian cadets to avoid those who feel contaminated by their touch.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
29th Aug. 1902.

1230. Referring to the arrangements made for the convenience of the Press at the forthcoming Coronation Darbar, the *Hindoo Patriot* points out that in many respects this body is better off than most of the guests invited, yet the omission to supply it with a free passage to Delhi is a breach of the laws of hospitality as understood in Eastern countries. It recommends His Excellency to follow the precedent of Lord Lytton on the occasion of the Delhi Assemblage and not to repeat the mistake that has been condemned in England.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th Aug. 1902.

1231. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* mentions three occasions on which Babu Harihar Misra, a pleader of Puri and an Honorary Magistrate and member of the Local District Board, opposed the motions of the Magistrate-Chairman of the District Board, and proceeds to relate that, suddenly one day after this, the pleader found his house surrounded by the District Magistrate, his Deputy, the Excise Sub-Deputy and others, and searched. Some *ganja* belonging to the pleader's brother having been found, the pleader and his brother were both convicted and fined each Rs. 250 and Rs. 50, in default three and one month's simple imprisonment under Act VII of 1878. Eight days later the Magistrate wrote to Harihar Misra to show cause why he should not be removed from the posts of Honorary Magistrate and member of the District Board and to the Munsif of Puri with a view to disbarring him from practice as a pleader.

"But," continues the *Patrika*, "all the energetic efforts of Mr. Garrett came to nothing. For, on appeal, Babu Harihar Misra was acquitted! Of course, in this case Mr. Garrett was not influenced by private grudge, but the circumstances are such that it is difficult to persuade the public that his private feelings had nothing to do with the prosecution of Babu Harihar."

It then denounces the excise administration as one of the greatest engines of oppression.

BEHAR HERALD,
30th Aug. 1902.

1232. The *Behar Herald* says that it is by no means rare to find the law in Bihar administered literally by the hands of young Magistrates. It mentions two cases, without mentioning the names of the parties concerned or the district of occurrence, in which Magistrates left their chairs to personally chastise offenders. They should, it remarks, remember that the dignity of the Bench is hardly maintained by their usurping in this way the functions of a school-master or a police officer.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Aug. 1902.

1233. Referring to the discussion in the *Globe* as to the inferiority of the men now entering the Indian Civil Service, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks: Now that the country has been thoroughly subdued, what difficulty is there in governing India, and what the harm if inferior men now come out in the Civil Service?

The training of the newly-arrived civilians tends, says the journal, to deteriorate their mental faculties, and debase their finer feelings, and official life in India is rendered so monotonous that, but for the Amir of Afghanistan, successive Viceroys of India could never have had patience to go through the full term of their service.

1234. The *Bengalee* again adverts to the reorganisation of the establishment of the Department of Finance and Commerce of the Government of India, reiterating its

The clerical service of the Department of Finance and Commerce.

complaint that the scheme is designed to advance the position and prospects of Europeans and

Eurasians only and to ruin the helpless men in the lower grades.

It points out that by reducing all appointments below Rs. 50 a month to the position of temporary ones, the holders will not be granted any of the Simla allowances, and that by the savings thereby effected, more temporary clerks can be entertained. This is ominous for the clerks of the other Secretariats, the heads of which will, doubtless, eagerly imitate the example set by the Finance Department.

BENGALÉE,
1st Sept. 1902.

III.—LEGISLATION.

1235. In view of the intricate and technical nature of the work before

The Civil Procedure Code Bill.

the Select Committee in considering the Civil Procedure Code Bill, the *Hindoo Patriot* thinks it

would be of the utmost importance to have, as a special measure, an experienced vakil and an experienced attorney to assist the Council with their practical experience. There are difficulties arising every day owing to diversity of practice and procedure, and the assistance of two such men would be invaluable in improving and simplifying the procedure.

The *Patriot* hopes that the Government will see its way to accede to this.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th Aug. 1902.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 6th September 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

